REMARKS

Claims 2, 7, 10, 11, 12, 18, 21, 24, 29, 32, 33, 34, 37, and 40 have been amended, claims 1 and 23 have been canceled, and claims 43-44 were previously canceled without intending to abandon or to dedicate to the public any patentable subject matter. Claims 2-21 and 24-42 are currently pending.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his indication that claims 5, 6, 15-17, 20, 27, and 28 are allowed and for his indication that claims 37-39 and 42 are allowable. Although Applicant believes that the subject matter previously presented in claims 1 and 23 was allowable in view of the prior art, in the interest of expedited prosecution claims 1 and 23 have been canceled and all dependent claims therefrom have been amended to depend from an allowable or allowed independent claim. Furthermore, the typographical error in claim 37 has been removed by these amendments. Accordingly, all pending claims appear to be allowable and such disposition is respectfully requested.

Notwithstanding their dependence from an allowable or allowed independent claim, the dependent claims provide added reasons for allowance.

By way of example, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited prior art teaches the content of dependent claims 3 and 25 each of which require each of a plurality of codecs to have a corresponding bit rate and/or required wherein each of a plurality of codecs has a corresponding bit rate and/or required utilization threshold and the selecting step comprises:

comparing at least one of the available bandwidth level and the bandwidth utilization level with the plurality of bit rates and/or utilization thresholds; and

selecting the highest quality codec having a corresponding bit rate and/or utilization level permitted by the at least one of the available bandwidth level and the bandwidth utilization level.

Similarly, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited prior art references teach the subject matter of dependent claims 11 and 33, both of which require that the first link correspond to a first set of port numbers and the second link to a second set of port numbers, the first and second sets of port numbers to be non-overlapping, packets addressed to one of the first set of port numbers to be directed along the first link and packets addressed to one of the second set of port numbers to be directed along the second link and wherein the redirecting step/operation comprises:

selecting for the packetized live voice communication a port address from the first set of port numbers when a new live voice communication can be set up with the first selected codec and

selecting for the packetized live voice communication a port address from the second set of port numbers when a new live voice communication cannot be set up with the first selected codec.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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